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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 17, 1962
TO: The Vice President
FROM: Colonel Burris
RE: Developments in Cuba

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority YSL 14516111, Date 10-23-77
By Cony, NARS, Date 6/20/01

The Soviet technicians -- approximately 4,200 in number -- are working with an apparent sense of urgency in Cuba. The western half of the island is now completely covered by the SA-2 Soviet defense missiles. Work on the eastern half is progressing.

Ships from the Soviet Union continue to arrive at an increasing rate. Forty-two of these ships docked in August, and as of mid September, 18 cargo ships and 2 passenger ships had arrived, with 26 additional cargo ships enroute -- already a total of 46 for September. Military equipment arriving in Cuba is of the latest Soviet design. The aircraft, for instance, are MIG-21's armed with air-to-air missiles, rockets and cannons. They are a match for almost any U.S. built fighter. Their range, however, is limited and their mission is essentially defensive. Tanks, trucks, artillery, small arms, etc., are likewise of latest Soviet design.

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